

pecuniary value is recognized by both the donor and the donee, and that a pass may have an influence upon the mind and decision of a juror or judge is understood by the railroad if not by the recipient of the pass. Corporations do not give away things of value without expecting a return in some form, and they would not continue to give passes unless they felt that this expectation had been realized in the past.

The parties to a suit are entitled to a fair and impartial trial, and a trial cannot be fair or impartial if the judge or a juror is under pecuniary obligations to one of the parties to the suit. As long as men can be influenced by "zeal born of benefits received and fostered by the hope of favors yet to come," as Mr. Cleveland once felicitously expressed it, they will be tempted to lean toward the side from which the benefit comes. It cannot be stated as an universal or invariable rule that a pass is a bribe, nor can it be said that it always influences the person who receives it, but until a passometer is invented which will measure the influence of free transportation upon the judicial mind, the only safe plan is to prohibit the use of passes by those who are to decide controversies to which a railroad is a party. If a judge is required to travel in the discharge of official duties his expenses are provided for; if he has occasion to travel on private business he can better afford to buy a ticket than the average man. If any one will observe he will find that those who need free transportation most are unable to secure it, and that those best able to pay their fare are the ones who have the influence necessary to secure passes.

Predicting Panic.

A marked degree of pessimism concerning business conditions is noticeable in many republican papers. This is particularly true of the great financial journals. The United States Investor, one of the leading financial publications, appears to be particularly blue. The Investor points out that the conditions at present are very similar to the conditions of 1893, immediately prior to the great panic of that year. It says "The whole industrial and financial structure in this country may be likened to a man in mid air on a tight rope, and it adds that the conditions "might very well suggest to Wall Street the advisability of getting things in snug condition."

It is not difficult to obtain the idea from the Investor's language that that publication expects a panic in the near future. The Investor reiterates the statement made by it in its issue of February 11, 1899, on which occasion the Investor said:

"The subject is a ghastly one; and we should not refer to it at this juncture, were it not that the links out of which the next panic is to be constructed are being forged before our very eyes. * * * Trusts are the agency which will produce the next panic in this country, and we are of the opinion that the wreck will equal any that have preceded it."

It will be instructive to recall the claims made by the financial publications in 1893. They told us then that the purchasing clause of the Sherman law was responsible for all our

ills, and a great clamor went up from these publications, which clamor found an echo in the Republican newspapers demanding the repeal of that clause. The repeal was effected, but the panic came nevertheless. And then they told us that the reform was not accomplished soon enough. All that was necessary, so they told us, to place this country above and beyond the fear of a panic was to restore confidence by banishing all danger of bimetalism and establishing the single gold standard.

Since then we have had two national campaigns, and republicans have interpreted the result as a popular verdict in favor of the single gold standard. The law enacted a year ago makes possible the redemption of every dollar of our money, silver included, in gold. The republicans are in complete control, and it is known to all the world that if anything is necessary to place this country any nearer the single gold standard than it is at this moment, the administration is in position to secure it. How does it happen, then, that under these conditions we are threatened with a panic?

The United States Investor informs us that trusts are the agency which will produce the next panic in this country, and the Investor is of the opinion that "the wreck will equal any that have preceded it." How does it happen, then, that the financial journals, like the Investor, that were so anxious for the repeal of the purchasing clause of the Sherman law, that were so bitterly antagonistic to anything in the form of bimetalism, that held out to us such alluring promises if we would but adopt the single gold standard—how does it happen that these publications have no word of protest to utter against the system which they now openly declare will be responsible for a disastrous panic? When they thought, or pretended to think, that silver was responsible for our ills, they didn't hesitate to speak out. When they thought, or pretended to think, that the prospect of bimetalism aggravated our conditions, they did not hesitate to protest against bimetalism. When they thought that the single gold standard would provide a remedy for our financial evils they did not hesitate to urge the application of that remedy. How does it happen that at this moment they are content with making dire predictions as to the result of the trust system without entering any protest against the encouragement of that system?

Virginia's Temptation.

Virginia seems likely to have a spirited contest over a proposed section in her new constitution restricting the appropriation for the education of the negroes. The plan suggested, and strange to say it has received considerable support, is to provide that the appropriation for negro schools shall be in proportion to the taxes paid by the colored people.

The Richmond Times denounces the scheme in the following language:

"The state will cruelly have neglected its duty if it give to the white children the means of primary education, and withhold it from the children that are black. Nor do we believe that the

people of Virginia are willing that this cruel thing be done."

Senator Daniels in a letter recently published says:

"Primary education ought to be free to all. With the three R's open to everybody they have the keys that unlock the book of knowledge, and it is their own fault or peculiar misfortune if they do not then work out their own salvation. You will observe that I speak of primary education. I do so because I think much of education has been wasted, and there is ample room for improvement and reform without disturbing the foundations of education and denying to any one primary opportunities. * * * Our own people are liberal by nature and history, and there was never a time when they could better afford to be liberal by interest. Every southern state and every border state has had a constitutional convention, and some of them two constitutional conventions since Virginia's last one, in 1867. All of these states have had racial questions to deal with, and some of them were stirred to the highest pitch of indignation by the atrocities of carpet-bag government. Yet in no one of them has any such radical move as the partition of school funds by severe racial lines ever found favor. This is a most significant fact. It shows the concurrent opinion of all commonwealths similarly situated to ours that no such step is advisable. We would isolate ourselves by taking it and chill the temper of reform."

The question raised is one of very serious importance—of far greater importance than the educational qualification which has been adopted in some of the states. An educational qualification, however objectionable it may seem at the time, is only a temporary barrier, for with a proper school system the franchise is soon within the reach of all; but to disfranchise the negro by an educational qualification and then deny him the means of getting an education, is a much more serious matter.

While it may seem a hardship for the white people to bear so large a share as they do of the expenses of instruction for colored children, they find some recompense in the fact that they own a large share of the taxable property. In no state of the union is there an attempt to make each family or class pay for its own education. In every community the expense of public schools is paid by general taxation.

Very often large taxpayers have few children or none at all, but they are compelled to contribute to the support of schools because every citizen of a community is interested in the education of all the members of the community. Life and property are more secure and existence more tolerable in proportion as the people are developed in mind and character.

If the people of Virginia are short sighted enough to yield to the temptation and abandon their efforts to educate the black people among them, they will pay a terrible penalty in being compelled to live among people brutalized by ignorance. The amount of money saved would be a small return for the peril which they would bring upon themselves and their children. Jefferson, whose dust makes sacred the soil of Monticello, was a firm believer in a common school system which would place the advantages of education within the reach of